



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2003

OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PASSING COUNTERFEIT \$20 BILLS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Eric Wright, 19, Overland Park, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on July 28, 2003, before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to one count of passing counterfeit Federal Reserve Notes.**

Melgren said that **Wright** admitted at his plea that on April 21, 2003, he passed thirty counterfeit \$20 bills at the Shell Oil Company in Stillwell, Kansas, to purchase three \$200 money orders. Wright further admitted that he received the counterfeit currency from co-defendant **Steven Dust** and he gave the three \$200 money orders to Steven Dust in exchange for legitimate currency and a box with twenty-three sheets of uncut counterfeit currency. When Secret Service agents interviewed the defendant at his residence in Overland Park, Kansas, on April 22, 2003, they observed a counterfeit twenty dollar bill in plain view on the coffee table.

Wright faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for **October 20, 2003, at 3:00 p.m.**

Co-defendant **Steven Dust, 25, formerly of Olathe, Kansas, currently of San Antonio, Texas, entered a guilty plea on July 14, 2003, to one count of making counterfeit money. Dust faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 29, 2003.**

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Johnson County Sheriff's office and the U.S. Secret Service in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.